

forwarded to Prof. Ewart a piece of the skin of *E. johnstoni*, were read:—

“I have compared the hair from the piece of skin you kindly sent with the hair of antelopes, oxen, deer, and other Ruminants, and with the hair of zebras and other Equidæ.

“The conclusion arrived at is that the pieces of skin sent home by Sir Harry Johnston belong to a Zebra.

“In all the Equidæ the hair has the same general structure, but yet it is possible to distinguish zebra-hair from that of the horse and the ass. In wild asses even the light hairs are longitudinally striped, in zebras only the coloured hairs are striped, while in horses neither the light nor the dark hairs show any stripings. In being striped the hairs from the Congo skin differ from the hairs of antelopes, and agree with those of the asses and zebras. As in the Congo skin the white hairs show no longitudinal striping, it may be assumed it belongs to a zebra rather than to one of the asses. To which of the known zebras does the Congo one most closely resemble?

“Judging by the hairs on the piece of skin sent it decidedly differs from the Quagga (*Equus quagga*), the Mountain Zebra (*E. zebra*), and the Burchell's Zebras (*E. burchelli*) of East and South Africa.”

The following papers were read:—

1. Notice of an apparently new Estuarine Dolphin from Borneo. By R. LYDEKKER.

[Received January 17, 1901.]

(Plate VIII.)

(Text-figure 11.)

The skin and skeleton of a female Dolphin from Borneo, recently purchased by the British Museum from Mr. E. Hose, do not accord with the description of any species with which I am acquainted, and therefore seem to indicate a new form. The specimen was obtained at Sipang, on the mouth of the Sarawak River.

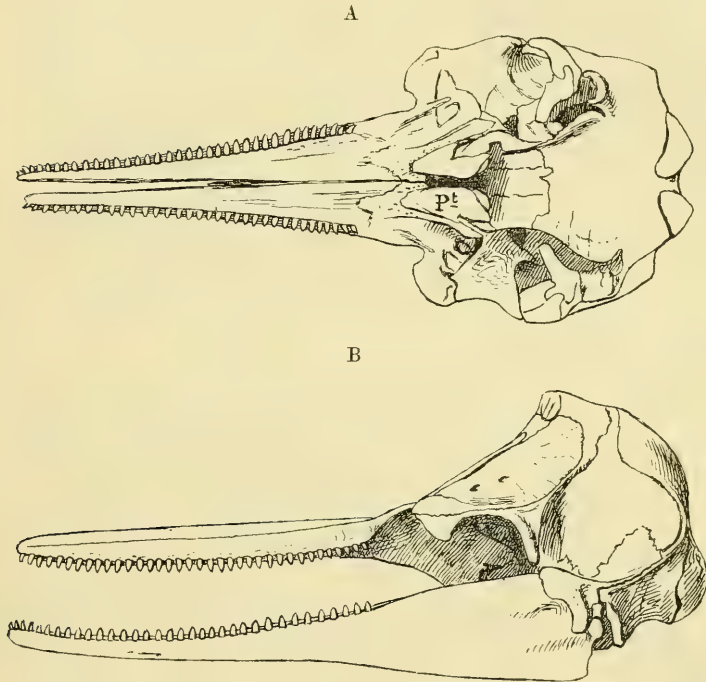
The total length of the skin is approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The beak is comparatively long and narrow, and at the base the forehead rises very abruptly, showing a distinct prominence or boss some distance in advance of the blow-hole. The flippers are falcate, but the dorsal fin is obtuse, low, and continued both in front and behind as a low ridge extending for a length of about fourteen inches along the back.

The general colour of the upper-parts is blackish; but the under-parts are much mottled with a light tint, which is yellow in the dried state, but during life was probably buffish white or whitish. Nearly the whole of the chin is of this light tint, and there are patches of it at the roots of the flippers; in the hinder half of the body and tail it extends some way up the sides.



The skull (text-fig. 11) at once shows that the specimen belongs to the *Sotalia-Steno* group of Dolphins, to which comparison may accordingly be restricted. The pterygoids are widely separated from one another in the middle line; and the teeth, which are of medium size, smooth, and antero-posteriorly compressed, number 36 in the upper, and 34 in the lower jaw. Unfortunately the skeleton is somewhat incomplete posteriorly, so that the total number of vertebræ cannot be ascertained. There are, however, 30 in the precaudal series.

Text-fig. 11.

Lower view (A) and lateral view (B) of the skull of *Sotalia borneensis*.

Pt. Pterygoid.

As regards the distinction between *Steno* and *Sotalia*, Messrs. Flower¹ and True² included all the forms with divided pterygoids in the latter, and those with conjoint pterygoids in the former. Mr. Blanford³, however, has transferred the three Indian species *S. plumbeus*, *S. perniger*, and *S. lentiginosus* from *Sotalia* to *Steno*,

¹ List of Cetacea in Brit. Mus. pp. 31 & 32 (1885).

² Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 36, pp. 153 & 156 (1889).

³ Fauna of Brit. India: Mammalia, pp. 582-585.

although they have divided pterygoids, stating that he thinks it desirable to await the examination of the complete skeleton before placing them in the typical South-American genus *Sotalia*. All three differ from the present form by their much larger teeth; while *S. plumbeus* and *S. perniger (gadamu)* are further distinguished by their tall and falcate dorsal fins, and *S. lentiginosus* by its speckled skin. The other Indian form, *S. frontatus*, is a true *Steno*, with conjoint pterygoids and rugose teeth. There are also many other differences, such as variation in the number of teeth.

As already mentioned, the specimen agrees with *Sotalia* and differs from *Steno* (exclusive of the Indian forms referred to that genus by Mr. Blanford) in the separation of the pterygoids. It further agrees with the former in the relatively large number of teeth and the smoothness of their enamel; Mr. True giving the number of teeth in *Sotalia* as from 26 to 35, and in *Steno* from 20 to 27. In *Sotalia* the number of vertebræ varies from 51 to 55, of which 29 are precaudal; but in *Steno* the number is increased to 66, of which 35 are precaudal. In its 30 precaudals the present specimen agrees sufficiently well with *Sotalia*.

It may therefore be taken that the specimen is not only referable to the last-named genus, but likewise to the typical Brazilian section of the same. The Indian forms (referred by Mr. Blanford to *Steno*) have been already differentiated, while the white *Sotalia sinensis*, in addition to its larger teeth, is readily distinguishable by its coloration.

The South-American species, especially those from the Upper Amazons, are probably sufficiently distinguished by their geographical distribution, but a few words may be added in regard to them. Both *Sotalia pallida* and *S. fluviatilis*, of the Upper Amazons, are broadly distinguished by the smaller number of their teeth, there being $\frac{30}{31}$ in the former and $\frac{28}{23}$ in the latter. *S. pallida* further differs by the whitish colour of the upper-parts, while the peculiar distribution of the colours forms another point of difference in *S. fluviatilis*.

Comparison is more difficult in the case of the three forms respectively known as *S. tucuxi*, *S. guianensis*, and *S. brasiliensis*. The former of these is typified by two skulls in the British Museum from the Upper Amazons, the number of teeth in which is $\frac{30}{30}$. This form, if not identical with *S. pallida*, is probably very closely allied.

Sotalia brasiliensis, from Rio de Janeiro, was described on the evidence of an immature specimen, and is said to be blackish above, with the sides fulvous, the belly white, and the flippers coloured like the back; the number of the teeth being $\frac{34}{33}$. In many respects this form appears to come very close to the one under consideration. Sir William Flower was, however, of opinion that *S. brasiliensis* might prove to be the young of *S. fluviatilis*. And apart from this, the figures given by Van Beneden (reproduced in pl. iii. of Mr. True's memoir) seem to indicate that the dorsal fin of

brasiliensis is more pointed than that of the Bornean Dolphin, and lacks the anterior ridge-like extension of the latter. Moreover, the head is less elevated above the beak than is the case in the present form, although it is true that this may be due to immaturity. In the skull of the Brazilian species the beak appears to be much wider than in the specimen under consideration, while the teeth seem relatively larger. *S. guianensis*, which is said to have $\frac{32}{29}$ teeth, may be identical with one of the foregoing; and, in any case, is too imperfectly known to admit of exact comparison, in the absence of the type specimens.

I have not been able to identify the Brazilian specimen with any of the South-American Dolphins recently described by Dr. R. A. Philippi¹, and am indeed doubtful whether any of them belong to *Sotalia*.

Under these circumstances I see no other course but to make the Bornean Dolphin, at least provisionally, the type of a species, for which the name *S. borneensis* will be appropriate. The specific characters will be apparent from the description above given.

The specimen was captured on September 12th, 1900.

2. Note on the Kashmir Ibex (*Capra sibirica sasin*).

By R. LYDEKKER.

[Received January 22, 1901.]

(Plate IX.)

(Text-figure 12.)

So far as I am aware, no coloured figure of the Ibex inhabiting the mountains which border the northern and eastern sides of the Valley of Kashmir has ever been published, and I accordingly desire to direct attention to a skin which, through the intervention of Rowland Ward, Ltd., will shortly be acquired by the British Museum. The animal (a male) to which this skin belonged was shot by Captain E. F. Holden below the Zogi-la, the pass on the Leh route dividing the Sind Valley of Kashmir from the Tibetan district of Dras. Captain Holden has had the head mounted for his own collection, and the remainder of the skin he has kindly offered to present to the Museum.

This animal was in the winter coat at the time of its death; and is, I take it, the *Capra sakeen* of Blyth, which is generally described as of a dirty white colour in winter, with dark underparts and legs, and browner in summer. Few naturalists, I think, have, however, any idea that it is really as white as is shown to be the case by the present example, which may be briefly described as follows:—

Whole of back and the basal portion of the neck creamy buffish white, with a very faint and incomplete light brown dorsal streak, becoming broader and darker towards the tail, which is

¹ An. Mus. Chile, 1893 and 1896 (No. 12).